

had the appearance of being new arrivals. Wind strong south by west. In the afternoon a severe squall with rain lasted three hours, then cleared with wind west.

September 17. I drove over the eastern portion of the island but did not see any birds.

September 18. Clear weather, strong west winds; drove over the western part of the island; saw no birds.

September 19. Rainy day, wind south by west and southwest; drove out but saw no birds. At six and a half o'clock p. m. it cleared with wind west.

September 20. Hazy; a smoky southwester. I was all over the western ground, but failed to discover any birds. From this date until October 4, I drove more or less over the best ground, and saw other sportsmen daily, but no birds were noted except on September 24, when a flock of six *young* American Golden Plover were seen towards the west. These were the *first* and *only young* birds noted this season. I made inquiry of two Edgartown (Martha's Vineyard) sportsmen regarding the birds in their locality and was told that only about a dozen scattering Plover and four or five Eskimo Curlew had been taken. They told me that on the 22d of August some Plovers were seen passing high up over the town (Edgartown) but none stopped.

Summary.—The great scarcity of these birds this season is shown when I state that only fourteen Golden Plover and one Eskimo Curlew have been shot on Nantucket, and only a dozen of the former and four or five of the latter at Edgartown, a record unexampled, I think, for twenty years. In considering the reasons for this scarcity of birds the present season, I must account for it theoretically as due in part to the continued fair weather and favorable migrating conditions which prevailed *prior* to the 20th of August, as also to the long *threatening* weather which seemed to precede for several days all the storms which prevailed during the migratory period this season. The birds probably adapted their migratory movements to such conditions. I have remarked of late years that it is to the *sudden local* storms which occur while they are on passage along this coast that their presence nowadays is due, such conditions forcing them to seek shelter temporarily from the inclement weather. — GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

The California Vulture in the San Gabriel Range, California.—In the San Gabriel Range, Sept. 25, 1893, I saw and shot at a California Vulture. When I first saw the Vulture it was about 350 feet away, across a gulch, perched on a fir stub about 40 feet from the ground. Mr. F. Hawley of Los Angeles was with me. The bird had heard us talking, and heard us shoot, but did not fly. I walked up to within 15 or 20 yards before it decided to leave. I then fired. At the report it pitched off the perch and down into a narrow, crooked cañon below, the large white triangular area under the wings showing plainly as the wings were spread. We searched

an hour in the dense chapparal below, but found nothing. Probably, the shot being small, it was but slightly hurt. Neither of us had ever seen this species before in the wild state, although Mr. Hawley is a native of Southern California and has been often in these mountains.

In this connection I beg to correct a mistake in my note on *Fregata aquila*, published in 'The Auk' for October, 1893 (p. 362). In my reference to the Humboldt Bay specimen, I should have quoted Mr. T. S. Palmer instead of Mr. Anthony as the authority for the record.—R. H. LAWRENCE, *Monrovia, Cal.*

Capture of the Golden Eagle at Covington, Virginia.—It gives me pleasure to record the capture of a fine male specimen of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtos*) at Covington, Alleghany County, Virginia, on Oct. 28, 1893. It was shot by Derry B. Smith, Esq., who kindly sent me the specimen for mounting. On skinning I found it very fat. It measured as follows: Length, 33 inches; extent, 78 inches; wing, 24 inches; tail, 14 inches. This is the first specimen, to my knowledge, that has ever been taken in this immediate vicinity.—THADDEUS SURBER, *White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.*

Another Record of the Breeding of the Saw-whet Owl (*Nyctale acadica*) in Eastern Massachusetts.—As there are still but few records of the breeding of the Saw-whet Owl in eastern Massachusetts, I take pleasure in adding one more.

On July 3, 1893, Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., and I were setting a line of traps in a heavy white pine swamp that lies along Red Brook in the town of Wareham, Mass. We noticed a large old pine stump which was broken off at about 25 feet above the ground and full of Woodpeckers' holes, and pounded on it. We had pounded but once or twice when a Saw-whet Owl popped her head out of the uppermost hole and kept it there motionless, although I fired at her three times with my pistol. The third shot killed her and she fell back into the hole.

On taking the bird out, I found there was a nest containing seven eggs. The nest was quite bulky and composed of gray moss (*Usuca*) interwoven with small pieces of fibrous bark, a few pine needles, small twigs, and feathers of the bird herself. The hole in which the nest was found was 18 feet from the ground and about 8 inches deep.

In the nest besides the eggs was a half eaten red-backed mouse (*Evo-
tomys gapperi*).

Three of the eggs were in various stages of incubation, one being on the point of hatching,—in fact the young bird had already cracked the shell. Three were addled, and one was perfectly fresh.

On dissecting the old bird we found that she had laid her full set of eggs. Her stomach contained the other half of the *Evo-
tomys*, which she was apparently eating when we disturbed her.